

Drug Legalization Mania Seizes British Elites

by Mark Burdman

This news article is the introduction to a longer piece on the drug-legalization craze sweeping Britain, written for the European War on Drugs magazine.

As the global economic-financial and social-cultural crises sharpen by the day, dominant elements within the British policy establishment have rushed to promote their own unique, and perverse “solution”: legalization of drugs.

There are two motivations in such a propaganda campaign. The first, based on greed, but also desperation, comes from an understanding that the global financial system is going bust, and must have access to much greater flows of “regulated” drug revenues to bolster “the markets.”

The other, more sinister motive, comes from that tendency in the British establishment, historically expressed most clearly in the late degenerate Aldous Huxley’s 20th-Century novel *Brave New World*. Their aim, as H.G. Wells’ buddy Huxley expressed it, is to create a “new order,” in which substantial segments of the population are controlled through drugs of various sorts. The “Huxleyites” among the British elites, see this period of growing chaos and disintegration—now featuring continuing riots in cities of Britain and North Ireland—as a marvelous window of opportunity, to establish their New Age, or, more precisely, New Dark Age.

Although the British Empire no longer exists in the form of its 19th-Century heyday, these reflexes have a clear historical precedent in the practices of the Empire, when Opium Wars were mounted against China, when vast sums were made in the opium traffic, and when such trade was legal. This was the time, when Queen Victoria used cannabis, ostensibly for medical reasons, and numerous figures in the British literary and cultural world regularly used narcotic substances.

As *EIR* has documented extensively in its book *Dope Inc.*, City of London-centered financial institutions around the world, have, for decades, managed, or laundered, flows of money coming from illegal drug trafficking. Legalized drug-money flows would be much larger.

Thatcherites For Drugs

The drug-legalization offensive began soon after the June 7 general elections in Britain, and has become a dominating, if not *the* dominating issue in the country, since. Appeals

for legalization have been prominently covered in the main “respectable” establishment press—not the tabloids—including the conservative London *Times* and London *Daily Telegraph*, and in the left-liberal London *Guardian*.

On June 20, Mary Ann Sieghart, a neo-conservative senior commentator for Rupert Murdoch’s *Times* newspaper, reflected on the terrible results that the British Conservative Party had had on July 7, and insisted that there were only one viable path for the party in the future. This had to be support for legalization of drugs, since this would both appeal to the “libertarian” streak among Conservatives, and would be popular among the younger generation of voters. At the *Times*, she was seconded, in the days following, by commentator Simon Jenkins, and by influential pomposity, Lord William Rees-Mogg. On July 2, his lordship came out, full-square, for drug legalization.

Endorsement for legalization, within high-level Conservative Party ranks, came soon thereafter. On July 6, former Cabinet Minister Peter Lilley wrote a commentary in the London *Daily Telegraph*, the daily owned by Margaret Thatcher propagandist Conrad Black, chief executive of the Hollinger Corporation. Lilley, himself a protégé of Thatcher, affirmed that cannabis should be legalized and sold through government-licensed outlets, in order to show that the Conservative Party is “open to radical new ideas.” He asserted that Conservative policy “ought to be about setting people free. Nothing could more vividly dramatize reaffirmation of our belief in freedom and personal responsibility, than to move clearly in favor of liberalizing the law on cannabis.” Lilley’s comments were featured, in the *Telegraph*’s lead front-page news article.

His words were, a couple of days later, echoed by Michael Portillo, who was, at that moment, the leader in the race for the Conservative Party successor to the defeated William Hague. (He was dethroned from this position, in Conservative Party voting, on July 17.)

It is, in fact, the “Thatcherites,” who have been, in great part, responsible for laying the groundwork for drug legalization, in Britain and worldwide. Despite all the self-righteous, moralistic protestations from Thatcher about “restoring values,” a main proponent of drug legalization has been Lord Harris, the founder and former director of London’s Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). Harris is a top figure in the ultra-free-market-oriented Mont Pelerin Society, and, by his own boastful admissions, was largely responsible for “creating Margaret Thatcher.” His views are reflected, in the United States, in a more populist, “dumbed-down” variant, by the indigestible Milton Friedman.

The IEA is the key organizing force, for the scheduled 2002 biannual plenary of the Mont Pelerin Society, to take place in London. It can be assumed that, in the lead-up to that event, drug-legalization propaganda will explode, in “neo-conservative” and “libertarian” circles, worldwide.